DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
D. CLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE
REVIEW DATE: December 24, 1952.
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Memorandum of Conversation

SUBJECT: Standard Oil Company request for State Department assistance in securing documents.

PARTICIPANTS: Under Secretary Bruce
Messrs. Dean, Gesell and Whipple, representing Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.
Messrs. Snyder and Welch, Department of Justice.
Assistant Secretary Linder
Mr. Fisher and Mr. Metzger

COPIES TO: Under Secretary Bruce
Mr. Snyder of the Department of Justice
Messrs. Fisher, Linder Byroade, Allison, Perkins Miller and Nitze of the Department of State.

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Pursuant to their request, representatives of Standard Oil of New Jersey came to the Department of State at 11 o'clock on December 23, 1952 to discuss the problem of securing consent of foreign governments to the removal from abroad of documents of its subsidiaries located abroad, pursuant to the Court's orders of November 10 and December 15, 1952.

Mr. Dean, speaking for Standard Oil, stated that the Company operated abroad through subsidiary companies for the most part; that if it requested permission from a foreign sovereign to remove the documents of its subsidiaries, it might be considered to have no status; that if it did request permission directly there would always remain the question whether it had done so vigorously enough; that it wished to avoid contempt citation; and that, after consideration, it desired to request the State Department to make the requests, pursuant to the Court's suggestion that it might wish to request that the Department do so. There were three general classifications of countries, so far as seeking permission to export documents is concerned:

1. Countries where a request by the Company might result in an uprising or cancellation of its concession, or other serious results: Argentina, Venezuela - to a lesser extent Brazil and Chile, and probably Syria and Lebanon, where the situation is touchy.

2. Countries where the result would not be quite so serious, but where a request might result in interference with operations: Italy, Sweden, Ireland, possibly Switzerland and Cuba.

3. Countries which have objected or may object to exporting these documents but where the political repercussions would be negligable: Canada, UK, Netherlands, France, Denmark, also Italy, Norway, Switzerland and Belgium.

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The Company was fully cognizant that the State Department may consider that to request permission of certain countries might have such unfortunate effects politically that the Department, under the circumstances, might wish to so inform the Court.

In response to questions, Mr. Dean and Mr. Gesell stated that other companies would probably make the same request of the State Department, if Standard's request was granted. They presented a draft letter to the Department containing their request.

Secretary Bruce stated that the Department would consider the request and inform Mr. Dean within the next day or so whether it agreed in principle to undertake the task; however, the Department would need more time, in the event that it agreed in principle, to determine whether to make the request of particular countries and the order in which it should be made. Mr. Gesell stated that whatever the Government decided by way of priority would be satisfactory to the Company.

L:L/E:SDMetzger:mjb

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